

**DURHAM-CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

**August 26, 2015**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee met on August 26, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the City Council Committee on the second floor of Durham City Hall. The following attended:

Mark Ahrendsen (TC Chair)	City of Durham Transportation
David Bonk (TC Vice-Chair)	Chapel Hill Planning
Kumar Neppalli (Member)	Chapel Hill Engineering
Ellen Beckmann (Member)	City of Durham Transportation
Pierre Osei-Owusu (Member)	City of Durham Transportation
Margaret Hauth (Member)	Hillsborough Planning
Tina Moon (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Bergen Watterson (Member)	Carrboro Planning
Laura Woods (Member)	Durham County Planning
Scott Whiteman (Member)	Durham County Planning
Peter Murphy (Member)	Orange Public Transportation
Bret Martin (Member)	Orange County Planning
Tom Altieri (Member)	Orange County Planning
John Hodges-Copple (Member)	Triangle J Council of Governments
Patrick McDonough (Member)	GoTriangle
Corey Liles (Member)	Research Triangle Foundation
Brandon Jones (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 5
Ed Lewis (Alternate)	NCDOT, Division 7
Donnie Brew	Federal Highway Administration
Felix Nwoko	DCHC MPO
Andy Henry	DCHC MPO
Meg Scully	DCHC MPO
Lindsay Smart	DCHC MPO
Dale McKeel	DCHC MPO
Brian Rhodes	DCHC MPO
Albert Amowtey	Durham County Access

Quorum Count: 18 of 31 Voting Members

Chair Mark Ahrendsen called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. A roll call was performed. The Voting Members and Alternate Voting Members of the DCHC MPO TC were identified and are indicated above. Chair Mark Ahrendsen reminded everyone to sign-in using the sign-in sheet that was being circulated.

**PRELIMINARIES:**

**Adjustments to the Agenda**

Chair Mark Ahrendsen asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda. Felix Nwoko stated that he will provide an update during Reports from Staff on House Resolution 74 version 2 and the DRIVE Act which passed the Senate.

**Public Comments**

Chair Mark Ahrendsen asked if there were any members of the public signed up to speak. There were no members of the public signed up to speak during the meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**4. Approval of July 22<sup>nd</sup> Technical Committee Meeting Minutes**

Chair Mark Ahrendsen asked if there was any discussion on the July 22, 2015 meeting minutes. Ed Lewis noted that Line 308 referred to two separate projects, the Smith Level Road project that has already started and the Jones Ferry Road project that will start in September 2015 and continue through 2016. Ed Lewis stated that the language should be clarified. Chair Mark Ahrendsen asked for a motion to approve the July 22, 2015 meeting minutes with the revision from Ed Lewis included. John Hodges-Copple made a motion to approve the minutes with the edits included and Margaret Hauth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**5. DCHC MPO STP-DA Obligations for FY2014 & FY2015**  
**Meg Scully, LPA Staff**

Meg Scully provided a report on obligations in FY2014 and FY2015 of MPO STP-DA funds. Meg Scully stated that the report was for informational purposes and is based on weekly reports received by the MPO from NCDOT. Meg Scully noted that transit projects are not included in the weekly reports because the funds are flexed to FTA but noted that there were no obligations of transit funds in FY15. Margaret Hauth asked about FY2015 projects, specifically starting the downtown Hillsborough pedestrian

plan in the UPWP. Margaret Hauth explained that it is a planning project, a pedestrian assessment project. Felix Nwoko asked for a follow-up discussion, off-line to determine project status. The information on STP-DA obligations was received and filed by the MPO Technical Committee.

**6. Public Involvement Schedule and Activity Coordination for Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project**  
**Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

Andy Henry reported that the public involvement schedule was given to the MPO Board with no substantial changes. The September 9th MPO Board meeting will begin at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chambers. At 7:00 pm the meeting will allow for public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement [DEIS] for the Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project.

Andy Henry discussed the DEIS handout to show the Technical Committee (TC) what is being sent out to the public to notify them of the opportunity for public comment before the MPO Board. MPO will coordinate with Patrick McDonough [GoTriangle] and the councils of each municipality and county to ensure the public comment period is communicated as required.

It was noted that the MPO Board will be asked to consider passing a resolution to endorse the NEPA preferred alternative. The recommended MPO Board action will be to approve the resolution and Tammy Bouchelle [GoTriangle] will clarify the language to be in compliance with legal guidelines. Pierre Osei-Owusu asked if the TC would first be making comments on the DEIS, and Mark Ahrendsen confirmed that this would be done. The MPO Board will be asked to consider a resolution to endorse recommended alternatives at the September 9th Meeting. The Public Involvement Schedule and Activity Coordination information was received and filed by the Technical Committee.

**7. Review and Approval of 2040 MTP Amendment, FY16-25 MTIP, and Conformity Determination Report**  
**Lindsay Smart, LPA Staff**

Lindsay Smart presented a review of the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) amendment, the FY2016-2025 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP), and the Conformity Determination Report (CDR). Lindsay Smart explained that agenda item was for the Technical

Committee to review the public comments received, discuss the MPO LPA's responses to public comments, and review the resolutions for adoption of each planning document. John Hodges-Copple remarked that there are some minor edits for the CDR and that he would provide the edits. Lindsay Smart agreed to get the edits from John Hodges-Copple and include the updated CDR in the information for the MPO Board. Bret Martin provided grammatical edits to the Public Involvement Appendix of the FY216-2025 MTIP. Pierre Osei-Owusu made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board adopt the 2040 MTP Amendment, FY16-25 MTIP, and CDR with the edits included and Scott Whiteman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**8. 2014 Mobility Report Card**  
**Andy Henry, LPA Staff**

Andy Henry explained to the Technical Committee that the Mobility Report Card [MRC] was released for public comment in July. He acknowledged that Kosok Chae contributed a large body of work to the project. Andy Henry stated that the Public Hearing for the MRC will occur at the September 9, 2015 MPO Board meeting. Patrick McDonough [GoTriangle] asked how to best inform the public of the changes in Vehicle-Miles Traveled [VMT] per capita in our region. Patrick McDonough stated that this metric would be a good way to show the progress of MPO policy and projects implemented to offer alternatives to Single Occupant Vehicle travel modes [SOV]. Patrick McDonough noted that Plan Bay Area 2040 presents this type of information in a way that shows the progress of Metropolitan Planning to reduce VMT while the actual population of a specific area is going up. Patrick McDonough stated that it is a good idea to look at the Bay Area reporting site at ([http://planbayarea.org/regional\\_initiatives/plan\\_bay\\_area/plan\\_elements/transportation.html](http://planbayarea.org/regional_initiatives/plan_bay_area/plan_elements/transportation.html)) to see how DCHC MPO could show our policies are having positive results in language best understood by the general public. Recent American Community Survey (ACS) showed a decrease in SOV use in the western triangle area [one of the largest decreases in percentage in the country. Henry pointed out that some data being reported is old and LPA staff will be doing updates with new data on a regular basis going forward.

Felix Nwoko agreed that this data is important and that DCHC MPO VMT numbers are going down as total population for the area is going up. Mark Ahrendsen and Bret Martin asked if there is an observable trend of VMT versus transit ridership in places like Orange County and Felix Nwoko stated that LPA staff are looking into this. There was also a discussion on how to best update information like VMT numbers, now that MPO LPA staff has templates and reporting models that can be utilized and updated more quickly. Linda Wallace Thomas made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board hold a Public Hearing on the 2014 Mobility Report Card and adopt the 2014 Mobility Report Card. Margaret Hauth second the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**9. Amendment #25 to the FY2012-2018 MTIP**  
**Lindsay Smart, LPA Staff**

Lindsay Smart presented amendment #25 to the FY2012-2018 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP). Lindsay Smart described the changes that were being made to each project. Lindsay Smart stated that the Technical Committee should review the amendment and resolution and offer any edits or revisions. There were no edits or revisions from the Technical Committee. Lindsay Smart stated that the action for the Technical Committee is to recommend that the MPO Board approve amendment #25 during the September 9th MPO Board meeting. There were no further questions or a discussion on the proposed amendment. Pierre Osei-Owusu made a motion to recommend that the MPO Board approve amendment #25 to the FY2012-2018 MTIP. Bret Martin second the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**REPORTS:**

**10. Report from the DCHC MPO Technical Committee Chair**  
**Mark Ahrendsen, DCHC MPO Technical Committee Chair**

Chair Mark Ahrendsen stated that he did not have anything to report.

**11. Reports from the LPA Staff**  
**Felix Nwoko, LPA Staff**

Felix Nwoko gave the LPA report. He announced a meeting that is scheduled for September 17th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in Conference room 4A [Technology Services] for STP-DA funding on locally administered projects. The FHWA and NCDOT will meet with DCHC MPO staff and engineers from local government and NCDOT Divisions to discuss why the project implementation process takes so long and determine any strategies to speed up the process to improve project delivery. Felix Nwoko stated that any and all Technical Committee members were welcome to attend the meeting.

Felix Nwoko discussed House Bill 74 version 2, explaining it was about MPO oversight which was not well received by all MPO members. Felix Nwoko reminded the Technical Committee that the MPO is an agency created by the federal government and is governed by federal statutes.

Felix Nwoko gave a short summary of the DRIVE Act, which was passed by the Senate but has not had any activity in the House. NCAMPO is monitoring this activity. The features include:

- A 5% increase in PL funding
- New programs in Freight Planning
- A 55% increase in STP funds
- TAP will now be entirely UZA [MPO] and no longer be allocated for states to use
- Congestion Management Process has been removed because it was duplicating performance measures already being recorded

Bret Martin asked about changes in 5307 funding and Felix Nwoko confirmed that 5307 funding would increase and 5339 funding would also increase and this funding would be discretionary. The transit operators would become the direct recipients for the funding again.

## **12. NCDOT Reports**

There was no report from NCDOT Division 5.

Ed Lewis, NCDOT Division 7, stated that that the Jones Ferry Road project was awarded this week and will start next month and be completed next summer [2016].

There was no report from NCDOT Division 8.

There was no report from NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch.

There was no report from NCDOT Traffic Operations.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

**13. Recent News, Articles, and Updates**

Linda Thomas Wallace, Durham County, shared that the NCDOT PTD report on 100 counties has good data that can be shared to show public transportation ridership and positive economic impacts. For every one dollar that is spent in the State on public transportation, there is a six dollar economic benefit. It is available on the NCDOT website at: <http://www.ncdot.gov/download/transit/nctransit/FYRidership.pdf>.

Felix Nwoko stated that House Bill 74, of the North Carolina General Assembly is a study on MPO/RPO Oversight. The General Assembly will create a Study Committee on Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Rural Transportation Planning Organizations. The Study Committee shall study the organization, structure, and oversight of Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Rural Transportation Planning Organizations, the role they play in transportation planning, and the way the organization, structure, and oversight might be revised to better match their role in transportation planning while maintaining compliance with federal transportation requirements

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business before the DCHC MPO Technical Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40am.